

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY-WEEKLY-SUNDAY.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1910.

PATTERSON DOWN AND OUT.

Governor Patterson, of Tennessee, couldn't come back. He has returned to the Democratic party of that State, however, the nomination for Governor, which should never have been given to him, and which would not have been given to him but for his political activity and the political activity of the machine he had built up about him for the purpose of continuing his stranglehold upon the independence of his party.

In an address, filled with much appreciation of his own high motives and ineffaceable regard for the Democratic party in his State, he has offered himself a sacrifice to Democratic supremacy in Tennessee, preferring, it would seem, this form of harikari to what the party had determined to do to him on election day. He protests his service to the cause of education in his State, the contest he has waged against intolerance and fanaticism, his mercy to the helpless, and the satisfaction with which he can retire to private life and "look back upon my record with pride, for there is not a blot or a stain upon it," and he has reached the conclusion that "I can best serve my party and State in this emergency by voluntarily doing what my enemies have so persistently demanded."

That surely speaks well for Governor Patterson. There will be much rejoicing among his enemies at his course, and they will be certain to say that they forced him to do voluntarily what they have been urging him to do all the time; but the gratifying thing to all of his real friends is that he has done now what he ought to have done before his staying in the ring resulted in the division of the party.

It is hoped that the party will now be able to get together and go about its business without another such strain upon its autonomy, as it were. It would be a fearful thing for Tennessee to fall into the hands of the Republicans, and against this fate all Democrats of that State should now unite. Patterson is down and out; and if the Democratic party in Tennessee is worth saving there is a good chance now to save it.

THE NEED FOR ENDOWMENTS.

In a letter to this paper commenting upon its recent utterances as to the inadequate compensation received by college professors, President Blackwell, of Randolph-Macon College, says: "The students do not pay one-half of what their education costs them. Clearly then the college is not a money-making institution. What money the trustees have has been given them by public-spirited men. If the State does not produce enough public-spirited men to allow the trustees to pay salaries that will induce a high type of man to entering a college profession, not only is the State the loser, but the State is responsible for this 'shame of the colleges.' The Northern States produce public-spirited men who give enough money to colleges to allow the trustees to pay for a high grade of professor. If the South does not do so, not only is the South steadily declining as compared with the North by not turning out a high grade of young men from the colleges."

The necessity for endowments is made clear by President Blackwell, and he brings out a strange likeness between Northern and Southern colleges in the matter of private gifts and bequests. When a Southern college or university receives a bequest or gift of any size, it is an exceptional occurrence; while in the North and West, such acts of benevolence are so frequent as to be almost commonplace. If Harvard or Yale were not to receive each year at least five hundred thousand dollars by way of endowment or gift, the university authorities would send up a sincere wail of distress.

It is difficult to find the real reason why this "endowment habit" has never taken general hold upon wealthy Southern people. In the last decade, some of our colleges and universities have received large monetary gifts, but a large part of such funds were supplied by Northern people. The Dukes have given a new life to Trinity College by their endowments; but who can name other Southern colleges so well taken care of by wealthy friends? Perhaps much of the solution of the problem lies in the fact that the South is just coming into its own; that the financial conditions of this part of the nation would not admit in the past of the general making of gifts to the colleges. In the last half century, however, have been few large captains of industry in the South.

One source of support to Northern colleges which President Blackwell alludes to mention are the alumni of those colleges. They perfect class organizations before they leave college, arrange to meet at definite intervals to old class reunions at their alma mater and in such way are kept in close touch with the college to which they owe so much. It has become a custom for these classes to make a gift to their alma mater on certain occasions,

and they always do handsomely in the matter of contributions.

The great weakness of the average Southern college is in failing to organize its alumni and keep them in touch with their college. If the alumni can be made to feel that they are to have a very real and live participation in the promotion of the welfare of the college, that they are to have "their say," then such interest on their part is very likely to find expression sooner or later in pecuniary form. The truth of the matter is the alumni, as well as "public-spirited men," must be educated to give to their colleges. In the support of the higher educational institutions, the South can well afford to imitate the spirit shown in other parts of the country.

A NEW NATIONALISM, A NEW SECTIONALISM.

Judge Baldwin, the Democratic nominee for Governor of Connecticut, does not appear to have been moved from his moorings the least bit by the recent idea recently launched at Oswatimie, Kansas, of a New Nationalism. He is plugging along on the old States Rights thoroughbred, and is making good time. The shouting and confusion of the Outlet advertising expedition having died out in a measure, the people are beginning to think about it all in their own quiet and unobtrusive way, and it looks now as if we may be able to "save some of the pieces" of the fabric our foolish old fathers erected at great expense of blood and treasure. In his speech accepting the nomination for Governor, Judge Baldwin said that "Connecticut is by rights, according to her real interests, a Democratic State," and then he said some things that everybody outside of Connecticut, and particularly all Democrats everywhere in this country, should carefully study, as follows:

Our party rests on a solid rock of constitutional doctrine—the doctrine that the just balance of power between the sovereignty of the United States and the sovereignty of each State must be jealously watched and steadily maintained, and this of equal importance to us of the smaller States. It is our first business to keep what we have got—got under the Constitution of the United States. But all the power of the Federal Government is given in the Constitution of the United States and strictly defined by the Constitution of the United States. It can be increased through executive or legislative or judicial action by usurpation of what the people have reserved to themselves and in no other way. We of the Democratic party are against such usurpation, and we are for the preservation of the Constitution. We stand for broad, local self-government. We of the small States, whatever our politics in other respects, must stand for that, or we lose our best inheritance from our fathers.

That is sound doctrine; as good for Virginia as for Connecticut, for Wisconsin as for New York, for Kansas as for California. There is nothing to take its place. "Imperial centralization" means the destruction of the American Republic, and in the end, so surely as men regard their own right of self-government, the establishment in this land of many independent governments. In that event, with the start we now have, there is not the least doubt that the South and the West would be able to take care of themselves.

THE TEACHERS' PENSION FUND.

Filling a whole column of the Bedford Democrat with his protests, Mr. Edward Kirby Meador, of Stewartsville, attacks the recent action of the General Assembly in continuing in force the pension fund for public school teachers. He declares that the law now in the 1910 statute book is "the most pernicious thing I ever saw." The gist of his argument is: "Now, anything that tends to lessen the efficiency of our teachers lessens the efficiency of the schools, and anything that lessens the pay of teachers surely lessens their efficiency, because if they are poorly paid they cannot get the best preparation to teach. This bill lessens the efficiency of our school system because it lessens the salary of teachers. . . . This bill, first, contains provisions that are absolutely prohibitive of the great majority of the teachers ever receiving any benefit whatever from the pension fund. It requires that a teacher must have five years of teaching as a requirement before any teacher is eligible for the pension list, and then, if he is not disabled, he gets only half rate."

"The second and principal objection to this bill is this: It provides the pittance of five thousand dollars as a fund to pension all the teachers in the State! Further, it provides that one per cent. of all the money paid to teachers shall be withheld to add to this fund, thus practically making the great majority of the teachers themselves pensioners. . . . The meagre salaries, the few who will or can fulfill the requirement for pensions. The legislators thus make the teachers conduct the poor-house for their disabled and underpaid fellows. This is a great evil! But it is a far more serious one, for it is the example of the kind of legislation the people are getting by their public servants, who are at the same time our masters! . . ."

"Common sense, horse sense, or at least a very old kind of sense will teach any man that if teachers must take part of their salaries for a fund that will never do nine-tenths of them any good, to pension themselves, they had much rather have no pension at all and had rather invest their money themselves where it will pension them. Teachers can certainly handle that portion of their salaries which the State proposes to take, better than to give it to a fund which almost guarantees no return."

The law is meritorious. It does not deserve such criticism as is here heaped upon it, as examination of it will show. None but school teachers benefit by the fund; the State gets nothing from it, but is simply the trustee of the fund.

In the first place, no teacher's efficiency is going to be lessened because of an annual contribution of one per cent. of his or her salary to the pension fund. One per cent. of the average teacher's salary cannot buy much efficiency. The return in after years, when the body and the mind are tired out and when the teacher must withdraw from the service, is ample repayment for any possible loss of efficiency

caused by the payment of this annual sum. The State does not lose, since a possible charge on it is averted.

Second, is the law prohibitive as to the great majority of public school teachers? Let us, by way of reply, ascertain what persons may be pensioned. The law indicates two classes: first, anyone who has taught twenty years and who "by reason of physical or mental infirmity or old age is incapable of rendering efficient service as a teacher;" second, all persons who have taught in the public schools thirty years, the age of retirement being fifty-eight for a man, and fifty years for a woman.

Of course, we realize that all teachers do not serve as long as that; that many withdraw before they have served ten or fifteen years. On these a hardship is worked, but the opponents of the law must remember that in order to start a fund like this successfully, some mode must be devised whereby all the funds will not be used up at the outset. The service limit is made long, we judge, for this very reason. As time goes on and more money is added to the fund, it will be possible to lower the term of service, and doubtless this will be done. Suppose the term of service were made ten years, with the fund as low as it is now. It would be exhausted in a few months.

If Mr. Meador will take out his pencil and figure awhile he will soon come to the conclusion that there is no other possible way outside of this fund by which a public school teacher can pension himself or herself on so small and easy an investment. It is absurd to say that one poor school teacher can so invest his or her money as to bring the return by way of pension that is brought in by a fund to which the teachers and the Commonwealth annually contribute.

Out of the treasury of Virginia ten thousand dollars has already gone to this fund, and we have no doubt that as the years go by there may be an increased appropriation for this worthy cause. The Commonwealth is doing what it can, for the public school teachers are doing a great service for a small stipend.

If the public school teachers of Virginia as a body did not want this law, does Mr. Meador suppose for one second that it would be on the statute book to-day? Does he think that the members of the General Assembly would have enacted this law and re-enacted it over the dissent and disapproval of the public school teachers? No one has more wholesome respect for the public school teacher, generally speaking, than the legislator, who realizes that the school teacher yields tremendous influence in the community.

The pension fund is the direct result of the great demand of the teachers themselves. Through them the law was passed; through their influence it was kept in force. It is a wise law, so plainly just and beneficial that it is, taken by itself, the best reply to those who would tear it from the book.

DON'T TOUCH IT, MR. TAFT.

Financial America says in a special dispatch from Washington that Mr. Taft will recommend to Congress at its next session the passage of the ship subsidy bill. Don't do it, Mr. Taft. Take our advice this time. Remember how we "rattled" with you about the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill; how we gave you the sincere counsel of "an old and affectionate friend," as George Washington would express it; how we begged you to knock the thing on the head after Congress had passed it; how we told you exactly what would happen; how we urged you to veto it, and that your veto of it would make you irresistible before the American people, and how, alas! Mr. Taft, you would not. Now, we pray you by all the bowels of our compassion, don't make the mistake of advocating a ship subsidy bill. There is nothing behind it except the desire and determination of the shipbuilders to get their hands into the Treasury at Washington for their own benefit. It would not help anybody else. Don't touch it, Mr. Taft; it is loaded with all sorts of mischief for the country, and has not one redeeming feature. If it shall be passed without your help and counsel, kill it; that is why the power of veto has been placed in your hands. Exercise it.

One of our correspondents, the owner of one of the finest plantations in the Commonwealth, has called our attention to a serious abuse of the public roads by drivers of wagons. It consists of the negligence of these men in properly attending to their teams. Some of them get in the wagon and go to sleep, and still more frequently "negro drivers generally roost and visit on the rear wagon as many as four at a time. Accidents generally happen in the worst places, and hence our ladies and children are in serious danger every time they drive over the roads alone."

Our correspondent tells us that two members of his family came very near being the victims of a serious accident by reason of the carelessness of a negro driver. He says:

"Although no accident happened, it was owing to the sense of the team my wife and young son were driving. They had come to a stand with the right wheel of the buggy six inches from the right edge of the roadway, and at least thirty feet above the river, on a very steep slope. The right front wheel of the wagon had locked with the right front wheel as the driver overtook and stopped them. Three feet further ahead and my entire outfit would have gone into the river, and what damage could I have recovered from a possibly irresponsible party?"

There is the point of the case to which we respectfully invite the attention of our legislators. There is no preventive law which places a heavy penalty on such negligence as this.

Our correspondent tells us "A prominent attorney informs me that my only recourse is a \$2 fine for not driving to the right. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and a law should be placed upon the statute books rendering a driver of one of these juggernaut heavy teams caught off his rig when traveling over country roads liable upon arrest not only to a heavy fine, but imprisonment additional, in case of injury by accident, and the owner liable in addition for accrued damages."

An examination of the statutes reveals no law covering this situation. That is a strange fact to us. We have no doubt that many accidents have happened in the past by reason of such negligence, and we know that many serious disasters have been barely avoided in such circumstances. There ought to be a definite law on the subject, a preventive law, which would impose so heavy a fine for neglect of this sort that the abuse would be stopped. There is no possible excuse for the carelessness of drivers in cases like this, and both the driver and the owner of the wagon ought to receive the severe punishment of the law. It is not enough to say, "Oh, well, if anything happens, the injured man can sue for damages." That is so; but the thing to do is to forestall the possibility of such accidents. Our roads ought to be safe for all who travel them, and we have as much right to demand the proper handling of teams as we have to require the careful operation of automobiles.

"This is a very serious matter, and should be properly agitated pending the convening of the next Legislature," says our correspondent, and we agree with him. It is our hope that the next General Assembly will pass an adequate law to cover such cases as those which have occurred. There is a real necessity for such a law.

THE SNUFFERS, MR. STONE.

How would it do if Melville Stone and the other men who manage the collection of news and the newspapers themselves in their special service would agree among themselves to let the Colonel go his own gait hereafter without saying anything about it? We wonder how long it would last if the snuffers were placed on him? Any one who will take the trouble to read all that he said on his recent tour will discover that he has added not a single new idea to the sum of human knowledge, or advanced any theory of law or government or personal conduct which had not already been advanced by some other revolutionist or crank of a dangerous sort to the liberties of the people.

THE REQUISITE VOTE.

The Norfolk Landmark, if we recollect, first raised the question as to what constitutes a majority necessary to pass the four proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution. This point was brought out by our Norfolk contemporary in discussing a statement made by us. Since then, several papers have discussed what is the required vote to pass these suggested alterations in our organic law.

The question has been: "Whether the proposed amendments to the State Constitution will fall of ratification if a majority of the electors going to the polls in November should fail to express on their ballots either approval or disapproval of the suggested changes?" In simpler form, it might be stated: "What is necessary to pass these proposed changes, simply a majority of the votes cast on the question of each of the amendments, or a majority of the votes cast in the election for members of Congress?"

The vote on members of Congress is an independent proposition, and has no connection with the vote on the four proposed amendments. They are two separate propositions; and the only thing they have in common is that they are voted on at the same time. The vote on one has no bearing on the vote of the other. One is a vote on men, the other is a vote on measures; and just so much difference as there is between men and measures is the difference between the two votes.

There are then, two views: First, that to pass the proposed amendments simply a majority of the votes cast on the changes considered alone is necessary; second, that to pass the amendments, a majority of all the votes cast for Congressmen is needed.

On the following point we are in accord with the Virginian-Pilot, which says "a ballot which contained no expression of the will of the voter will not count either way." The failure of any voter to vote has no bearing on what constitutes a majority in the vote on the proposed amendments.

The Constitution of Virginia says: "It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to submit such proposed amendment or amendments to the people, in such manner and at such times as it shall prescribe; and if the people shall approve and ratify such amendment or amendments by a majority of the electors qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, voting thereon, such amendment or amendments shall become part of the Constitution."

Commenting on this provision, the Virginian-Pilot declares: "This seems to settle the question at issue, for but one construction can be given to the words 'voting thereon.' This refers to the electors who exercise the right of declaring their views on this particular subject, and plainly a majority of these would suffice to ratify the amendments, or either one of them receiving that indorsement."

GOOD advertising, like the "cracker-jack" salesman, must show a profit over and above its "salary."

Richmond Adv. Agency, Inc., Mutual Building

even though the total number so voting should constitute a mere fraction of the aggregate of persons depositing ballots. If fifty thousand voters should participate in the election for Congressmen, but only twelve thousand tickets be marked for or against either of the amendments, then six thousand and one affirmative votes would ratify that amendment. The citizen who refrains from exercising his franchise thereby forfeits the right to be counted. The contention would scarcely be less tenable that said Congressman could be elected unless he had deposited a majority of all the ballots deposited, though from half of them the names of all candidates had been erased. Or suppose the vote on the amendments totaled more than that for the candidates for Congress in any district, could it be claimed that the leading candidate must show a majority of all the votes cast in the district, though the names of all the voters only as to the amendments. Even if the constitutional provisions did not provide its own interpretation there has never been a case in the political-jurisprudence of Virginia in which a court gave any weight in ascertaining the result of an election to a blank ballot."

This is precisely our position. A majority of all the votes cast on each of the four propositions is enough to pass all four of them. Yet we differ with the Virginian-Pilot on the most essential point—the Virginian-Pilot does not advocate the defeat of all the proposed amendments. The Times-Dispatch stands for the rejection of each of the propositions, and with all its might and main will strive to such an end.

Lorimer has resigned from the Hamilton Club, and the Colonel has gone back to Oyster Bay, cookeys that he did a very brave thing. It turns out that Lorimer didn't want to attend the dinner to the Colonel, and that he had to be urged to do so by the president of the club three times before he would consent to be present. There is a great deal of talk about it in Chicago, and the general opinion is that the Colonel's behavior was most indecent. A newspaper here and there is patting him on the back for his display of brutal manners, and it is safe to bet that the Outlet will commend him for it; but the great mass of people think that his treatment of Lorimer and the Hamilton Club, of which Lorimer was a member, would have been impossible to any person of gentlemanly instincts.

Fifty-seven ministers in the Upper Iowa Methodist Conference have "thrown up the sponge," in the language of the day, because they found it impossible to take care of their families on the meagre salaries paid them for their services, their salaries ranging from \$450 to \$1,200 the year. After all, perhaps celibacy is not the worst way of managing the business in which we are advised that those who go into it must take with them neither scrip nor purse.

They seem to be working together now; but we think that the Columbia State should apologize to its Charleston contemporary, just the same.

After turning down Lorimer in Chicago, the Colonel hid himself to Cincinnati, where he made love to Cox, admittedly the worst of all the political bosses in the Middle West. Cox, however, is no worse than Tom Platt, who kicked the Colonel upstairs, and Quay, and others too numerous to mention, with whom the Colonel has been on the most intimate terms, and with none of whom did he ever refuse to eat. Indeed, it is said that they had him trained so that he would eat out of their hands.

We welcome the Farmville Herald as a most valuable ally in the demand of The Times-Dispatch that Virginia must raise its own hay. In the opinion of our contemporary, "there is no good reason" why it should not; "we have the sunshine and the soil, and strong arms." And when the work is accomplished, there is not a mule or a horse in this grand old Commonwealth which will not get up on its hind legs and thank us that, at last, it is being fed on "roughness" well worth eating.

The strike of the coal miners in Illinois cost the strikers \$12,000,000 and the operators \$15,000,000. It lasted five months. It is said that there will be a shortage of 20,000,000 tons in the supply of coal to heat this year. The people will have to pay for it, and the operators will get back something of what they have lost from the people who will be compelled to buy their coal; but who will make good the \$12,000,000 the miners have lost? Strikes do not pay anybody and least of all the men who strike.

Said a very lovely woman yesterday: "Why is it that this brilliant Mr. Bailey, of the Houston Post, of whom you seem to think so much, does not say kind and appreciative things about men and communities, instead of smart and bitter things?" The only explanation we can offer is that Bailey can't be nice; but really he is not so bad at bottom.

The New York World has very queer notions about the Republicans. For example, it says: "Nominating their best men everywhere, Democrats are making it easy for Republicans to participate directly or indirectly in the great uprising." But why does the World think that the Republicans would be willing to vote for the best men of any party?

"But every man shall bear his own burden," was the text of Dr. Scherer's sermon to the Lutherans yesterday, and it was well worked out that the thought of the Apostle was that while we should bear one another's burdens, we must admit after our individual responsibility for all that we do and say and think. We must help the helpless, raise up the fallen, strengthen the weak, sorrow with those that mourn; but we must also look after ourselves and not trust to something outside of ourselves to save ourselves.

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Colored Orphan Asylum.

Please let me know through your paper if there is any orphan home for negroes in Richmond. If so, what is the address? A READER.

Yes, the Friends' Asylum for Colored Orphans, 112 West Cherry Street.

Dr. Cabell's Works.

1. Did Dr. Cabell, late of the medical faculty, serve the University of Virginia, and if so, in what position? 2. Can Bledsoe's "Theology" be found in any of the book stores of the city? 3. Yes. He published "The Principles of Modern Science to the Unity of Mankind." 4. We doubt it.

Arkansas Advertising Commission.

Can you give me any information regarding the Arkansas commission which intends to advertise that State extensively, the fact and amount of rainfall, and which was mentioned in an editorial in The Times-Dispatch a few days ago? Who and what is the address of the chairman, and what will be the scope of the commission's endeavors?

For this information, write to Hon. Guy B. Tucker, State Commissioner of Agriculture, Little Rock, Ark.

Patagonia.

Could you give me any information about Patagonia—that is, the climate, conditions, degrees of heat in summer and degrees of cold in winter, number of inhabitants, number of miles of railroad, about the amount of rainfall, and what are the living conditions, any hotels (number of, if any), cities and towns, and information that may be of interest to a traveler?

Patagonia consists of plateaus which form a series of terraces from the eastern slope of the Andes to the sea. Much of the soil is arid, composed of sand, shingle or boulders, and impracticable for cultivation. The climate is suitable for grazing, and some of the valleys of the Andes and near the coast are well adapted for wheat-growing. The climate is dry and during the summer months (November to April) is warm, but subject to violent winds; the winters, especially in the southern part, are cold and are ushered in by storms. The settlements are along the coast, where the climate is milder. The population of Patagonia proper in 1902 was 45,231.

To Work in Railroad Office.

I am desirous of obtaining a clerkship in a railroad and wish to know what departments there are in which

one would find profitable employment. Please state, also, what are the necessary qualifications, and how it should be made application. Must I depend upon influence, or upon my qualifications, in seeking a position and in rising to higher and better paid posts?

There is no definite channel by which a young man may advance from a subordinate to a higher position in a railroad corporation. It is no doubt true that many positions are often secured by influence rather than by merit, but merit also wins frequently. The duties of clerks include monotonous routine labor, and salaries are usually small, as compared with the remuneration obtainable in other employments. We believe that a young man who desires to engage in railroad business should first of all make sure of his commences with the regular train service. If his physical frame is strong and general health good, and if he has some natural ability to adapt himself to the work, he need have little fear that in due time he will advance to a higher position and command a better salary than he can by beginning by a clerkship, which has but few opportunities for advancement. In applying for positions, the young person to see is the local trainmaster of any of the railroad companies in this city. Ask him for the best place he can give you as a beginner.

If you desire, however, to become a clerk who may be required to perform duties about the same for all departments of the company, such as may be acquired at any regular business college where young men are trained for office work—a knowledge of orthography, arithmetic, penmanship, grammar, letter writing, business forms and shorthand and typewriting. The president, vice-president, auditor, general superintendent, general manager and usually the members of the board of directors, require the services of clerks. The very best view with any of these officials is usually the better way to obtain a situation.

Definition of Basement.

To settle a dispute, will you please give me the standard definition of the word basement? Is it not considered in architecture the first story of a building?

The Century Dictionary, which we consider authoritative, thus defines a basement: "A floor or story which is wholly or partially below the ground level, but is usually, as distinguished from a cellar, well lighted and fitted up and used for household or other usual purposes."

Cobb's Address.

Please give address of J. B. Cobb, vice-president of American Overlaid Company. T. B.

111 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

MONTENEGRINS MUST ALWAYS CARRY ARMS

BY LA MARQUE DE FONTENOY.

W HILE in most civilized countries of the world the carrying of weapons is strictly forbidden to civilians, in the new-begotten kingdom of Montenegro it is obligatory. It is a legal requirement, moreover, that every chamber of the revolver should be loaded save one. The rule is equally imperative in the case of the rifle, and the man who is not loaded, as demanded by statute and custom, and ready for instant use, is liable to be shot on the spot. The king is not on such occasions quite as likely as not to inflict personal chastisement. In fact, his methods of government are extremely patriarchal. How he, an overgrown, middle-aged man, will often stop any of his subjects whom he may encounter and demand to examine his revolver, and who, better than the man, if it is not loaded, as demanded by statute and custom, and ready for instant use, is liable to be shot on the spot. The king is not on such occasions quite as likely as not to inflict personal chastisement. 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